

Applic. No.: 10/657,898

Amdt. Dated May 9, 2005

Reply to Office action of February 8, 2005

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of the application is requested.

Claims 1-19 remain in the application. Claims 1, 11, and 18 have been amended. Claims 18-19 have been previously withdrawn and rejoinder of claims 18-19 has been requested.

In item 3 on pages 2-6 of the above-mentioned Office action, claims 1-3 and 6-10 have been rejected as being unpatentable over Mori (US 5,949,098) in view of Yonesaka (US 6,696,712) under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

In item 4 on pages 6-7 of the above-mentioned Office action, claims 11-13 and 16-17 have been rejected as being unpatentable over Mori in view of Yonesaka and Chua (US 6,825,553) under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

As will be explained below, it is believed that the claims were patentable over the cited art in their original form and the claims have, therefore, not been amended to overcome the references. However, the language of claims 1 and 11 has been modified in an effort to even more clearly define the invention of the instant application.

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Before discussing the prior art in detail, it is believed that a brief review of the invention as claimed, would be helpful.

Claims 1 and 11 call for, inter alia:

said grid of supply interconnects of said first one of said plurality of voltage supply structures being rotated relative to said grid of supply interconnects of said second one of said plurality of voltage supply structures.

According to the invention of the instant application, the grid (21) of the supply interconnects (20) of the first one of the plurality of voltage supply structures (9) in one of the topmost metallization layers (6) is rotated relative to, or more specifically, oriented orthogonally to the grid (19) of the supply interconnects (20) of the second one of plurality of voltage supply structures (9) in the other one of the topmost metallization layers (5). This can be clearly seen, for example, in Fig. 4 and is clearly described on page 24, lines 14-18 and page 25, lines 16-19 of the specification.

The Examiner has stated that Mori discloses in Fig. 3 "the grid of the first one of the plurality of voltage supply structures 332 being rotated parallel at zero angles to the grid of the second one of plurality of voltage supply structures 331" (see page 3, lines 17-19 of the Office action). The Examiner's statement is not understood. It is

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noted that the phrase "parallel at zero angles" is not recited in the claims of the instant application. Also, it is not understood what "being rotated parallel at zero angles" means. As can be clearly seen from the discussion above, "rotated relative to" as recited in claims 1 and 11 of the instant application means that the grid (21) of the supply interconnects (20) of the first voltage supply structure (9) in the metallization layer (6) is offset or, more specifically, arranged at right angle to the grid (19) of the supply interconnects (20) of the second voltage supply structure (9) in the metallization layer (5) (see Fig. 4 of the instant application).

Clearly, Mori does not show "said grid of supply interconnects of said first one of said plurality of voltage supply structures being rotated relative to said grid of supply interconnects of said second one of said plurality of voltage supply structures," as recited in claims 1 and 11 of the instant application. The other cited references do not make up for the deficiencies of Mori.

It is accordingly believed to be clear that none of the references, whether taken alone or in any combination, either show or suggest the features of claims 1 and 11. Claims 1 and 11 are, therefore, believed to be patentable over the art and

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since all of the dependent claims are ultimately dependent on claims 1 or 11, they are believed to be patentable as well.

Applicants acknowledge the Examiner's statement in item 5 on page 7 of the above-mentioned Office action that claims 4-5 and 14-15 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Since claims 1 and 11 are believed to be patentable as discussed above and claims 4-5 and 14-15 are ultimately dependent on claims 1 or 11, they are believed to be patentable in dependent form. A rewrite is therefore believed to be unnecessary at this time.

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration and allowance of claims 1-17 are solicited. Rejoinder of method claims 18-19 is requested upon allowance of product claims 1-17 under MPEP 821.04 ("if applicant elects claims directed to the product, and a product claim is subsequently found allowable, withdrawn process claims which depend from or otherwise include all the limitations of the allowable product claim will be rejoined").

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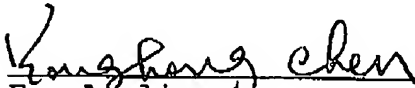
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In the event the Examiner should still find any of the claims to be unpatentable, counsel would appreciate a telephone call so that, if possible, patentable language can be worked out.

If an extension of time for this paper is required, petition for extension is herewith made. Please charge any fees which might be due with respect to 37 CFR Sections 1.16 and 1.17 to the Deposit Account of Lerner and Greenberg, P.A., No. 12-1099.

Respectfully submitted,


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